

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

OMB-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 EA-07 EUR-12 (ISO) W

----- 115719

R 061145Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4187

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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EO QQYTWC N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, CE

SUBJ: CEYLONSE REACTION TO PRESIDENTS RULE IN TAMIL NADU

1. SRI LANKA GOVT (GSL) HAS CAREFULLY AVOIDED ANY COMMENT ON IMPOSITION OF PRESIDENTS RULE IN TAMIL NADU. GOVT-CONTROLLED PRESS AND RADIO HAVE RESTRICTED COVERAGE TO WIRE SERVICE REPORTS ALTHOUGH CEYLON OBSERVER (GOVT-CONTROLLED) HAS CARRIED TWO ARTICLES FAVORABLE TO MRS GANDHI. NO EDITORIAL COMMENT.

2. INDEPENDENT TAMIL DAILY "VIRAKESARI", DID CARRY STORY CONTAINING COMMENTS CRITICAL OF MRS GANDHI'S ACTION BY TAMIL POLITICAL LEADERS INCLUDING LEADERS OF TAMIL UNITED FRONT, CEYLON COMMUNIST PARTY, PEKING-WING AND CEYLON WORKERS CONGRESS (INDIAN TAMIL LABOR UNION BASED ON PLANTATION LABORERS). SAME STORY ALSO CARRIES CRITICISM BY PRINS GUNASEKERA, MAVERICK SINAHLESE LEADER OF SRI LANKA VIMUKTI BALAVEGAYA, PARTY WHICH HAS TWO MPS.

3. COMMUNIST PARTY, MOSCOW-WING NEWSPAPER "ATTHA"

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ON FEB 4 TOOK ADVANTAGE OF LOCAL BUDDHIST

GROUP'S DEMAND FOR DELINEATION OF ELECTORATES ON
COMMUNAL BASIS TO ACCUSE CIA OF BEING BEHIND
COMMUNAL ACTIVITIES HERE AND ELSEWHERE.
"ATTHA" THEN CHARGES CIA HAS FINANCED AND ADVISED
SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT IN TAMIL NADU LED BY DMK AND
THAT THIS "SHOULD HAVE BEEN MAJOR REASON FOR IMPOSING
PRESIDENT'S RULE."

4. PRIVATELY, CEYLONESE PROBABLY DIVIDE ON ISSUE
ALONG COMMUNAL LINES. SINAHLESE SEEM TO WELCOME
OR ARE NEUTRAL TOWARDS MRS GANDHI'S ACTION DUE TO
APPREHENSION OVER POSSIBLE DMK SUPPORT FOR
SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT AMONG TAMILS IN NORTHERN
SRI LANKA. TAMILS REJECT ACTION DUE TO THEIR
NATURAL AFFINITY FOR DMK AND TAMIL NADU.
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

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